

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, March 13, 2023

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 13, 2023, via an in-person meeting held at the Chisago County Government Center, Conference Room 150B in Center City, MN, and a virtual Meeting with the following Policy Team members present: Dan Dahlberg (County Commissioner), John Eret (Chair), Robert Klatt (Citizen at Large), Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Scott Noland (Vice-Chair and Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), and Dawn White (Chair and Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health) and Brian Sandel (Citizen at Large).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Brian Sandel remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Eret was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 91161-91169 Road 32 E St., Clements MB, ROE 1 WO Canada, a location open and accessible to the public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Subd. 3, persons interested in monitoring the meeting electronically from a remote location may view the meeting through the Microsoft Teams meeting link below.

Also present: Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager), Ben Elfelt (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District), Camden Droppo (Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Jackie Anderson (Comfort Lake Association, and Blayne Eineichner (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District).

Each Policy Team member, and others present, attended the meeting in person or at a location of their choice through a personal device (e.g. laptop, tablet, cell phone or personal computer). Each Policy Team member, and others present, could view documents presented during the virtual Meeting via their devices and to participate in discussion through microphones located in their devices.

The Chair, Dawn White, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Klatt offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Noland and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Dahlberg offered a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Schneider and, upon a vote

being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.

ARPA Funded Programs

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the ARPA funding approved by the Chisago County Board of Commissioners and reviewed the draft Treatment and Education Grant application for lake associations. The Policy Team reviewed and provided suggested changes to the treatment grant allocation amounts for the lake associations. These changes include establishing a yearly base grant amount and amount based on the percentage of littoral area of the lakes in each lake association. The next steps are for the Policy Team to review the treatment grants applications at the meeting on May 8, 2023, to provide recommendations to the Chisago County Board for approval.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Klatt offered a motion recommending \$140,000 over two-years for 2023-2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Education Grants for Lake Associations and including grant writing as an eligible Professional Services expense. The Year 1 application includes a \$5,000 base grant for each lake association and an additional grant based on the percentage of littoral acres (\$35,000 total). The Year 2 application includes a \$5,000 base grant for each lake association (or \$10,000 base grant if not spent in 2023), plus and the additional percentage of littoral acres (\$35,000 total). Application periods include April and May of 2023 and January and February of 2024. Funds not spent in 2023 will be rolled over into the 2024 and 2025 application periods. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Dahlberg and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.

Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (LSC CWMP)

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on the following agenda items:

- a. Policy Committee Citizen Alternate Appointment, and
- b. Snake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan recent approval by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Historical Actions & Budget Request Next Steps

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the Historical Actions and Next Steps document to show future Policy Team actions.

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the draft, revised Table 1: Chisago County Appendix Objectives – Annual Reporting 2022, to show yearend progress reporting for the objectives, based on the recommendations from the January 9, 2023, Policy Team meeting. These include redefining N/A as noted in the table, clarifying funding compared to estimate spent (according to color-coded definition), and prioritizing funding compared to need (according to the priority ranking scale). The Policy Team discussed revising Table 1 to clarify estimated costs to review and prioritize at the next Team meeting, along with reviewing action items not yet completed in the LSC CWMP Annual Report from 2021.

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the draft informal and formal Policy and Procedures documents along with the draft resolution. At the January 9, 2023, meeting, the Policy Team discussed the revising the Policy and Procedures document and bringing the new version along with a resolution for review at the next Team meeting.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to accept the Chisago County Water Plan Policies and Procedures document and Resolution minus the following line in the Overview Section (The Policy Team will continue to meet in 2022 and 2023 to develop a framework for the future role of the Team) subject to amendment as may be recommended in the future. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Klatt and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski and Droppo provided an update on the following agenda items:

- a. Right of Way Workshop to be held on March 21, 2023, and
- b. Opportunity to participate in the Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Project sponsored by the Wild Rivers Conservancy.

Spring Education Opportunities 2023

Droppo provided an update on a variety of upcoming water resources educational workshops and meetings in 2023.

Rain Barrel Sale

Elfelt provided an update on the coupon available to residents of the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District to purchase rain barrels through the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Water Plan Policy Team discussed and recommended postponing the following agenda items until the next Policy Team meeting:

1. Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater Grant Application
2. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates
 - a. Watercraft Inspections and Decontaminations
- c. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – Invasive Phragmites Grant Application Update
3. East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP) Annual Report 2022 and Planning 2023
4. Department of Natural Resources Hinckley Area Fisheries Field Notes (Winter 2023)
5. Hennepin County Lake Pledge Website and App Campaign <https://lakepledge.com/>
6. Agency Updates

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Noland offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Klatt and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carried as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.